

## Peace Boat's goal is to create 'dialogue'



Yoshioka Tatsuya is in Vancouver for the World Peace Forum.  
Photograph by : Mark van Manen, Vancouver Sun

### **Doug Ward, Vancouver Sun**

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A large cruise ship built in the 1950s with sleek interior designs that would delight those with a taste for the retro is docked at Canada Place this week, but its passengers are not tourists heading for Alaska.

The boat is called The Topaz, although it's better known as The Peace Boat. The vessel is carrying more than 1,000 people on an around-the-world voyage -- a journey designed to teach its passengers about peace and social justice.

The Peace Boat is visiting Vancouver so that its passengers, mostly Japanese students who paid up to \$13,000 for the three-month trip, could participate in the World Peace Forum.

The Peace Boat was founded by a group of Japanese university students in 1983. The students were upset at the Japanese government's attempt to revise school history textbooks to minimize the country's aggression in Asia before and during the Second World War. They used the boat to visit places where people had endured Japanese colonialism and violence.

The Peace Boat's mission has since expanded to deal with efforts to stop nuclear proliferation and spread human rights.

During a World Peace Forum event on the boat Wednesday, one of the Peace Boat's founding members, Yoshioka Tatsuya, said the boat's goal is to create dialogue between people.

"What is the most important way to create peace in the world? I really believe it is human ties," Tatsuya told a group of World Peace Forum delegates.

And his way of furthering those connections, added Tatsuya, was to form the Peace Boat

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